

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for signaling write status, the method comprising:  
2               detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an  
3       input/output port associated with a computer; and  
4               activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has not been  
5       completed by the external storage device.
  
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises  
2       detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output  
3       port of the computer.
  
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises  
2       detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output  
3       port provided in a front panel of the computer.
  
- 1           4.       The method of claim 2, wherein activating a write-in-progress  
2       indicator comprises activating an indicator of the computer that is adjacent the  
3       input/output port.
  
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises  
2       detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output  
3       port of a connector hub that is connected to the computer.

1           6.     The method of claim 5, wherein activating a write-in-progress  
2     indicator comprises activating an indicator of the connector hub that is adjacent the  
3     input/output port.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress  
2     indicator comprises activating an indicator light associated with the input/output port.

1           8.     The method of claim 7, wherein activating an indicator light comprises  
2     activating a light-emitting diode associated with the input/output port.

1           9.     The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress  
2     indicator comprises issuing an advanced configuration power interface command to a  
3     switch that controls the indicator.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, further comprising determining when the  
2     external storage device has completed writing and deactivating the write-in-progress  
3     indicator when it is determined that writing has been completed.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, wherein determining when the external  
2     storage device has completed writing comprises communicating with the external  
3     storage device to obtain information regarding a write status of the external storage  
4     device.

1           12.     The method of claim 11, wherein communicating with the external  
2     storage device comprises sending a command requesting confirmation when writing is  
3     completed or a query requesting an indication as to whether writing is completed.

1           13.     A system for signaling write status, the system comprising:  
2             means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into  
3     an input/output port associated with a computer;  
4             means for activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has  
5     not been completed by the external storage device;  
6             means for determining when the external storage device has completed  
7     writing; and  
8             means for deactivating the write-in-progress indicator when it is determined  
9     that writing has been completed.

1           14.     The system of claim 13, wherein the means for detecting transfer of  
2     data comprise means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device  
3     plugged into an input/output port of the computer.

1           15.     The system of claim 13, wherein the means for detecting transfer of  
2     data comprise means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device  
3     plugged into an input/output port of a connector hub connected to the computer.

1           16.     The system of claim 13, wherein the means for activating a write-in-  
2     progress indicator comprise means for activating an indicator light that is adjacent the  
3     input/output port.

1           17.     The system of claim 13, further comprising an indicator light adapted  
2     for placement next to the input/output port.

1           18.     A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system  
2     comprising:

3           logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator when data is  
4     transferred to an external storage device that is plugged into an input/output port  
5     associated with a computer, the indicator signaling that writing has not been  
6     completed by the external storage device;

7           logic configured to determine when the external storage device has completed  
8     writing; and

9           logic configured to deactivate the write-in-progress indicator when it is  
10    determined that writing has been completed.

1           19.     The system of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to activate a  
2     write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to activate an indicator  
3     adjacent the input/output port.

1           20.    The system of claim 19, wherein the logic configured to activate a  
2   write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to issue an advanced  
3   configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

1           21.    The system of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to determine  
2   when the external storage device has completed writing comprises logic configured to  
3   send a command or query to the external storage device requesting information  
4   regarding a write status of the external storage device.

1           22.    The system of claim 21, wherein the logic configured to send a  
2   command or query is configured to request a confirmation notification that writing  
3   has been completed.

1           23.    A computer, comprising:  
2           a processor; and  
3           memory that contains a write monitor configured to activate a write-in-  
4   progress indicator when data is transferred to an external storage device that is  
5   plugged into an input/output port associated with the computer, determine when the  
6   external storage device has completed writing, and deactivate the write-in-progress  
7   indicator when it is determined that writing has been completed.

1           24.    The computer of claim 23, further comprising an input/output port  
2   provided on a front panel of the computer.

1           25.     The computer of claim 24, wherein the input/output port is a universal  
2     serial bus port.

1           26.     The computer of claim 24, further comprising an indicator light  
2     provided on the front panel adjacent the input/output port.

1           27.     The computer of claim 26, wherein the indicator light is a light-  
2     emitting diode.

1           28.     A connector hub, comprising:  
2             a controller;  
3             an input/output port adapted to receive a plug of an external storage device;  
4     and  
5             an indicator light positioned adjacent the input/output port;  
6             wherein the connector hub is configured such that the indicator light  
7     illuminates a warning signal while writing is in progress in the external storage  
8     device.

1           29.     The connector hub of claim 28, wherein the input/output port is a  
2     universal serial bus port.

1           30.     The connector hub of claim 28, wherein the indicator light is a light-  
2     emitting diode.

1           31.     An external storage device, comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a buffer system that is configured to receive data transferred from a computer;  
4           storage media that is configured to store the data received by the buffer  
5           system; and  
6           memory including logic configured to detect when all data cached in the  
7           buffer system has been written to the storage media and to further communicate a  
8           write completion status to the computer.

1           32.     The external storage device of claim 31, wherein the storage media  
2           comprises one or more of flash memory, atomic resolution storage memory, and  
3           magnetic random access memory.